

Message Text

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NESCO; QUITO FOR HOLLEY MACK BELL

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TAGS: AORG UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO RESOLUTION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION USIA INFO SECSTATE DTD 302114Z JUN 76

QUOTE CARACAS 8039

USIAC FOR IPS/IBS CROSSPLAY & ILA; STATE FOR ARA

SUBJECT: UNESCO RESOLUTION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

REF: CARACAS 7148 & 5965

1. ONE OF VENEZUELA'S LEADING POLITICAL COMMENTATORS, SOFIA IMBER DE RANGEL, TOOK A STRONG STAND AGAINST UNESCO RESOLUTION (WHICH COULD INHIBIT THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION) IN HER WEEKLY COLUMN IN EL UNIVERSAL TUESDAY, JUNE 29.

2. MRS. RANGEL WARNED THAT THE PROPOSALS ON THE ROLE OF THE PRESS NOW BEING "COOKED UP" BY UNESCO COULD CONSTI-
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TUTE ENDORSEMENT OF THE KIND OF PRESS CONTROLS EXISTING IN

COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND THIRD WORLD DICTATORSHIPS. HERE-
WITH ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COLUMN:

"THE UNIVERSAL AMBITION OF ALL GOVERNMENTS IS NOT TO BE
BOTHERED BY THE PRESS AND THEREFORE IT WOULD MAKE LIFE
EASIER FOR GOVERNMENTS IF, IN THE NAME OF EXTRAVAGANT
INFORMATIVE NATIONALISM, UNESCO LENT WHAT IS LEFT OF ITS
PRESTIGE (WHICH IS NOT MUCH, BUT IS SOMETHING) TO LEGI-
TIMATIZE WHATEVER PRESS RESTRICTIONS GOVERNMENTS INVENT.

"WHAT CERTAIN EXPERTS OF THE UNESCO PROPOSE AND WHAT WILL
BE THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN AN UPCOMING CONFERENCE OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR SCIENCE AND
CULTURE IS WHAT THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND A CERTAIN
NUMBER OF THIRD WORLD DICTATORSHIPS ARE ALREADY DOING.

"FOR EXAMPLE, RUSSIA SPENDS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND A TRE-
MENDOUS EFFORT TO PREVENT ITS CITIZENS FROM LISTENING TO
THE BBC FROM LONDON OR OF HEARING THE READING OF GULAG
ARCHIPELAGO ON RADIO FREE EUROPE. WITH LESS ADVANCED ELEC-
TRONIC MEANS, BUO IN THE SAME SPIRIT, THE NAZIS TRIED BY
EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE TO PREVENT HITLER'S OCCUPIED EUROPEAN
PEOPLES FROM LISTENING TO THE SAME BBC OR THE VOICE OF
AMERICA (SIC).

"THIS SAME RUSSIA IS OPPOSED TO FREE SATELLITE TELEVISION
TRANSMISSIONS. LET US PAUSE FOR A MOMENT TO ANALYZE
THE MEANING OF THIS POSITION. FOR INSTANCE, IF THE USSR WERE
TO TRANSMIT A TELEVISION PROGRAM VIA SATELLITE TO US IN
VENEZUELA TOMORROW, SINGING THE GLORIES OF SOVIET SOCIALISM,
IN ALL PROBABILITY IT WOULD BE JOYOUSLY BROADCAST BY OUR
OWN STATE TELEVISION NETWORK, AND IT WOULD BE WELL THAT IT
WERE...BUT THE SOVIET COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT ON THE OTHER
HAND IS NOT WILLING TO ALLOW THE 200 AND SOME MILLION HUMAN
BEINGS, WHO ARE KEPT AS SEMI-PRISONERS BEHIND THE CLOSED
DOORS OF THE COUNTRY, TO BE INFORMED, EVEN INDIRECTLY (FOR
EXAMPLE, TO SEE THE WAY FANS ARE DRESSED AT SPORTING EVENTS
IN WESTERN EUROPE OR THE UNITED STATES) THAT THEY ARE THE
VICTIMS OF FALSE INFORMATION EMANATING FROM THEIR OWN
'OFFICIAL' CHANNELS. DO YOU KNOW THAT THE COMMUNIST NEWS-
PAPERS OF THE WEST ARE NOT ALLOWED TO CIRCULATE WITHIN
THE USSR EXCEPT WITHIN A VERY TIGHT CIRCLE; THAT IT IS
NOT POSSIBLE TO BUY COPIES OF L'UNITA OR L'HUMANITE AT
ANY MOSCOW OR LENINGRAD NEWSSTAND?...

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"IN COUNTRIES WHERE GOVERNMENTS DECIDE WHAT IS FALSE
INFORMATION AND WHAT IS THE TRUTH, IT ALSO HAPPENS (AND
NOT BY COINCIDENCE) THAT THE POLICE KILL THOSE OPPOSED TO
THE GOVERNMENT AND WHAT THE PRESS SAYS (IF IT SAYS ANY-
THING) IS THAT IT APPEARED TO BE AN ACCIDENT."

3. COMMENT: THE COLUMN WAS GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY ON THE
FRONT PAGE OF SECTION TWO WHICH IS DEVOTED TO MAJOR NATIONAL

NEWS. MRS. RANGEL'S VIEWS FOLLOW CLOSELY THE COMMENTS
MADE BY US JOURNALISTS (ERIC SEVARIED, BARRY ZORTHIAN,
HELEN THOMAS AND PIERRE SALINGER) AT THE POST'S BICEN-
TENNIAL COMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR IN APRIL IN WHICH SHE
PARTICIPATED. EL UNIVERSAL'S EDITOR ON PAGE ONE IN THE
SAME EDITION ANNOUNCED THAT EL UNIVERSAL WILL PARTICIPATE
IN THE SUPPORT FULLY AND INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
COUNTER CONFERENCE IN COSTA RICA BEING SCHEDULED TO
COINCIDE WITH THE UNESCO MEETING. HIGGINS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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